REMARKS

Claims remaining in the present application are Claims 1-22. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3-9, 11, and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Wasilewski, U.S. Pat. No. 5,600,378 (hereinafter, Wasilewski). The rejected is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites:

> In a digital television receiving system, a method of sharing information comprising the steps of:
>   a) a first device receiving a digital television bit-stream;
>   b) a second device setting a value in an attribute field of a command, said command for requesting information regarding said bit-stream;
>   c) said second device setting at least one flag of a plurality of flags in said command, said step of setting defining the type of information said attribute field describes;
>   d) said second device issuing said command to said first device; and
>   e) said first device responsive to said value of said flag of said command, returning one table of a plurality of tables to said second device.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct a minor informality. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment. Claim 1 describes a method in which a second device forms a command and sends it to a first device, which returns a table to the second device in response to a value of a flag in the command. Claim 1 recites that the second device sets at least one flag of a plurality of flags in the command, the step of setting defining the type of information said attribute field

describes. Applicant notes that Claim 1 recites that the flag defines the type of information that the attribute field describes.

I

Sending LCN Does Not Constitute Setting Flag Defining Type Of Information

Wasilewski fails to teach or suggest setting at least one flag of a plurality of flags in a command, the step of setting defining the type of information the attribute field describes, as claimed. Figure 1 of Wasilewski depicts a remote control 26 and an EPG (Electronic Programming Guide) 28 each capable of sending a logical channel number (LCN) to a service selection switch 30. Wasilewski states that during operation, a subscriber either selects a channel directly using the remote control 26 or selects a program from the EPG 28. In either case, the LCN, which defines a service by its transport stream ID (TSID) and program number (PN), is provided to the service selection switch 30 (col. 6, lines 23-28).

Applicants respectfully submit that the sending of the LCN of Wasilewski does not constitute a device setting at least one flag of a plurality of flags in a command, the step of setting defining the type of information the attribute field describes, as claimed. For example, the Applicant does not understand the LCN to comprise a flag that defines the type of information in an attribute field.

Figure 1 of Wasilewski also depicts a tuner 12 receiving an input data stream. The tuner 12 is directed to tune to a particular frequency, as indicated in Figure 1. To derive the frequency, the decoder uses the TSID to look up the frequency in the Network Information Table (NIT) 36 (col. 9, lines 31-37). This frequency is then sent

to the tuner 12. Applicants respectfully assert that sending the frequency to the tuner 12 does not constitute a device setting at least one flag of a plurality of flags in a command, the step of setting defining the type of information said attribute field describes, as claimed.

II

Tuning to Frequency Does Not Constitute Returning a Table Responsive to the Value of a Flag that Defines the Type of Information

Claim 1 further recites that the first device, response to the value of the flag of the command, returns a table of a plurality of tables to said second device. The rejection asserts that a table is returned to the second device (col. 9, lines 20-42). However, the rejection fails to assert the claimed limitation of the table being sent responsive to the value of the flag, as claimed. Moreover, Applicants respectfully assert that a table is not sent responsive to a value of a flag of the command, as claimed. In the cited passage, Wasilewski may teach that the tuner tunes to a new frequency, in response to being directed to do so by the decoder. The decoder may then be able to access various tables from the transport stream at this frequency (col. 9, lines 36-42). However, the tuner is not responsive to a value of a flag in a request, as claimed. Applicants note that Claim 1 recites that the flags define the type of information in the attribute field. Applicants respectfully assert that being directed to tune to a given frequency is not responding to a value of a flag that defines a type of information in an attribute field, as claimed.

For the foregoing rationale, Claim 1 is neither taught nor suggested by Wasilewski. As such, allowance of Claim 1 is earnestly requested.

Claim 11 recites, in part:

> a first device having a memory unit for storing a command, wherein said command has a plurality of flags and a plurality of attribute fields, wherein at least one of said attribute fields is operable to store information of different types, and wherein said plurality of flags are configurable to identify the type of information held in said plurality of attribute fields

For at least the reasons discussed in part I of the response to Claim 1, Claim 11 is neither taught nor suggested by Wasilewski. As such, allowance of Claim 11 is earnestly requested.

Claims 3-9 and 13-16 depend from Claims 1 and 11, which are believed to be allowable for the foregoing reasons. As such, Claims 3-9 and 13-16 are believed to be allowable.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2, 10, 12, and 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Wasilewski. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 17 recites, in part:

> a) a first device issuing a request for information regarding the content of a digital television bit-stream, said request comprising a command having a plurality of flags which specify the type of information requested and a plurality of attribute fields configurable to hold information of different types, wherein the type of information in the attribute field is specified by said plurality of flags;
> ...
>
> c) based on said plurality of flags, said second device determining one table of a plurality of tables which the value in the valid attribute signifies.

Claim 17 has been amended to correct a minor informality. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

For at least the reasons discussed in parts I and II of the response to Claim 1, Claim 17 is neither taught nor suggested by Wasilewski. As such, allowance of Claim 17 is earnestly requested.
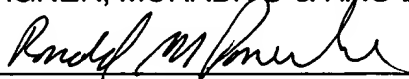
Claims 2, 10, 12, and 18-22 depend from Claims 1, 11, and 17, which are believed to be allowable for the foregoing reasons. As such, Claims 2, 10, 12, and 18-22 are believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Based on the amendments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-22 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, allowance of Claims 1-22 is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have a question regarding the instant amendment and response, the Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: __10/3__, 2003

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